

REPRESENTING BERLIN, FARMINGTON & NEW BRITAIN

YOUR STATE SENATOR **Terry Gerratana**

Legislative Office Building, Room 3000, Hartford, CT 06106-1591

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
HARTFORD CT
PERMIT NO. 3937



This summer, I joined Ryszard Schnepf, Polish Ambassador to the United States, on a tour of Polish-owned businesses in New Britain.

STAY IN TOUCH

Senator Terry Gerratana

Legislative Office Building, Room 3000
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

Capitol: 860-240-0584

www.SenatorGerratana.cga.ct.gov



Visit me on the Web
to contact me, sign up
for my e-newsletter,
or to follow me on:



Facebook



YouTube



Flickr



RSS



Please share or recycle when
done with this mailer.



Protecting Our Environment & Growing Our Economy

I joined the Berlin legislative delegation this year and successfully fought to keep the Kensington Fish Hatchery open. According to Connecticut's Commission on Culture and Tourism, 251,000 state residents take 5.4 million fishing trips in Connecticut and spend \$198 million each year. 51,000 anglers from out of state take 457,000 fishing trips here, spending about \$45 million annually. Maintaining Connecticut's reputation for fishing is vital to our tourism industry. This year, 768,000 Atlantic salmon and 20,000 Brown trout were used to stock Connecticut rivers. Keeping Connecticut waterways well-stocked with fish has a significant economic value to the state.

Improving Health & Education for Farmington's Children



I recently read to a group of young children as part of "Reach Out and Read," a program that works with local pediatricians to provide children with free books and encourage family reading. Encouraging early reading has been shown to prepare children with large vocabularies and strong language skills before they enter school.

Computers for Seniors

Earlier this year I was able to bring a new computer lab to seniors and other residents at the Charles Graham Apartments housing facility in New Britain. After hearing that there were no longer computers available in the building, I secured the donation of new machines from Connecticut Breast Health Initiative allowing for the opening of a new resource room. Residents are now able to use this resource for research and connecting with employers, as well as keeping in touch with loved ones.



Working for a Cure in New Britain



For many years now I have worked at Connecticut Breast Health Initiative's annual "Race in the Park" event in New Britain. Money raised at the event stays in the state and goes toward local breast cancer research. While the funds raised are a very important part of this event, it also holds a much more personal meaning for many of the participants. The race serves as a support group for those currently fighting breast cancer, as well as for friends and survivors looking for a way to show their solidarity. Hundreds of teams attended the event wearing matching t-shirts to support loved ones who have battled the disease.

www.SenatorGerratana.cga.ct.gov

Update from SENATOR **Terry Gerratana**

Committed to Economic Recovery

At the beginning of the global economic recession, Connecticut economists predicted a very slow recovery. At the State Capitol, we took action. During the last three legislative sessions and the 2011 October Special Session on Jobs, we passed historic, bipartisan, job-creating bills.

We launched and then expanded programs to help thousands of small and medium-size businesses. For example, the **STEP-Up** and **Small Business Express** programs—which so far have assisted nearly 850 firms to create or preserve almost 12,000 jobs—offer job-training support for veterans and the unemployed and low-interest loans and state grants for small businesses.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, we have created more than 41,000 private-sector jobs since 2011.

Resources to Grow Jobs

- **Job Expansion Tax Credits** for small businesses: www.decd.org
- **Small Business Express** to get funding for your small business: tinyurl.com/SmallBizXpress, or contact Michelle Peters at 860-270-8052 or Michelle.Peters@ct.gov.
- **STEP-Up** (Subsidized Training & Employment Programs) provides worker training subsidies for small businesses and small manufacturers, including a program to hire unemployed recent veterans: www.stepct.com
- **Connecticut Reemployment Portal** if you have recently lost a job and are looking for work: www1.ctdol.state.ct.us/CTReP
- **Job & Career ConneCTion** for details on job and training programs: www.ctjobandcareer.org

To learn more about job growth in Connecticut, visit:
www.senatedems.ct.gov/GrowJobs



Support for Local Businesses

Locally, many businesses in the communities I represent are utilizing important programs like STEP-Up and Small Business Express to preserve and create jobs.

Connecticut Valley Bindery (shown at left) • Richard Machine Tool Co., Inc.
Victory Energy Solutions LLC • Oxford Industries of Connecticut, Inc.
Marsam Metal Finishing Company • The Discovery Center Inc.
Cheminofarma LLC • Storm Water U.S.A. • The Music People
Mega Manufacturing • New Britain Museum • Riley's Gourmet, LLC
The Walker Group • D&S Welding & Fabrication • Sign Pro, Inc.
Delmar Products • Oxford Industries of CT, Inc. • Biopellet LLC • ABL Enterprises
Farrell Treatment Center LLC • Varsk Machine LLC • Everything 2 Wheels
Formalwear by Debonair • The John Boyle Company • I-Mark, Inc.
Hodge LLC • ADNET Technologies • Horen Chiropractic
Big Z Discount Cleaners, LLC • Powerhouse, Inc. • R. Pelton Builders



Children's Mental Health

Following the Newtown tragedy, Democrats and Republicans came together to improve Connecticut's mental health care system, with a particular focus on the well-being of children.

The new law implements a strong, comprehensive, integrated system of care. It identifies strategies for reducing the long-term negative impact of mental, emotional and behavioral health issues on children. It promotes early identification and intervention, and ensures access to developmentally appropriate services to help treat children earlier. It also created a Children's Mental Health Task Force to study the effects of nutrition, genetics and medication on our youngsters.



Stamping Out Price Gouging



In light of recent severe hurricanes and historic snowstorms that have battered Connecticut, members of the public have been vulnerable to price gouging by shady service providers for snow removal, flood abatement, roof raking and lodging. That is why we expanded consumer protections by prohibiting price gouging for services that are essential for the health, safety and welfare of consumers in the aftermath of severe storms. This will be a deterrent to exploitative business owners and will protect consumers from predatory practices.

For more information about how to report price gougers, contact the **Department of Consumer Protection** at 860-713-6300 or visit www.ct.gov/dcp.